

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201957
ORIGIN SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY/OPS/FO:KMGWYN:DB
APPROVED BY A/SY/OPS/FO - PJHARRICK
A/SY/OPS/FO - MKDALTON
A/SY/OPS - VFSTMARS
A/SY/OPS/T - CPELCZYNSKI
NEA/ARN - ETUNIS (DRAFT)
-----044837 250548Z /21
R 241957Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY COVERAGE BAGHDAD

REF: A) AMMAN 4815
B) STATE 186263

1. REFTEL A: NOTWITHSTANDING DESIRABILITY OF RSO'S EVER PRESENCE AT POST AND VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS ENUMERATED, DEPARTMENT HAS CONCLUDED RSO AMMAN ONLY VIABLE OPTION TO FURNISH PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SUPPORT FOR U.S. INTEREST SECTION, BAGHDAD. AS MENTIONED REFTEL B), A REVIEW OF OTHER RSO OPERATIONS IN THE AREA DISCLOSES AN EXISTING BURDEN OF MULTI-POST RESPONSIBILITIES OR A PRECLUSION TO COVER IRAQ AS A RESULT OF SERIOUS POLITICAL/IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.

2. TSO ATHENS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO FURNISH FUTURE TECH-
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NICAL SECURITY SUPPORT FOR BAGHDAD. SINCE AMMAN IS ALSO COVERED BY TSO ATHENS, BAGHDAD SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS CAN BE DISCUSSED DURING TSO VISITATIONS TO AMMAN. ORDINARILY RSO AMMAN WOULD BE EXPECTED TO VISIT BAGHDAD EVERY TWO MONTHS FOR A PERIOD OF 2-3 DAYS. WITH PROPER COORDINATION BETWEEN TSO ATHENS AND RSO AMMAN, BAGHDAD WILL BE ADEQUATELY SERVICED.

3. DEPARTMENT CONFIDENT THAT GIVEN SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME, IRAQI VISAS CAN BE OBTAINED IN BOTH JORDAN AND GREECE FOR PURPOSE OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL, PARTICULARLY WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. RSO SHOULD THEREFORE SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR IRAQI VISA WELL IN ADVANCE OF PROJECTED TRAVEL TO AVERT POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS. REQUEST RSO IMMEDIATELY ADVISE DEPARTMENT ON RESULTS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE201957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KMGWYN:DB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-1085
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770827/aaaaawnm.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 181e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 AMMAN 4815
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1496550
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COVERAGE BAGHDAD
TAGS: ASEC
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/181e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009